

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

NAME: FOERTSCH, Hermann Otto Eduard

TITLE: General, a.D. Hqs

ALIAS: @VIERSEN, Hermann

COA 131445
28 Feb 55

V-

CRYPTONYM:

BORN: 4 Apr 1895 ; Drahnow, Kreis Deutschkrona RELIGION: Evangelisch
(day, month, year, city/Prov.)

RESIDENCE: Muenchen 19 , Prinzenstr 3 / 0
(city-suburb/Prov. Street #/floor) TEL. # 6 31 63

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION:

Height: 6'1" (185 cm) Weight: Eyes: blue Hair: drk blond; reced
Face-shape: Complexion: dark Teeth: hair-lin
Scars: Build: badly round-
Prominent/ident. features: nervous facial twitch; beak nose shoulder

PARENTS: FOERTSCH, Friedrich: Gutverwalter und Kgl. Layr. Major der Ldw. a. D.
Leiter Zeigstelle Nuremberg der bayr. Landessiedlung,
Nuremberg. Died 26 Apr 1939.
nee LANDT, Bertha: died 28 Oct 1918, Gr. Tarpers bei Graudenz

SPOUSE: nee MARI, Hildegard: b. 20 Oct 1900, daughter of Arthur MARI, Kolberg
Married 28 Mar 1924 in Kolberg

CHILDREN: Sons: Hansl (Hans?) Juergens: b. 31 Jan 1935 in Berlin-Dahlem
Joachim: b. 15 Mar 1928 in Berlin
Volker: b. 30 Jun or 2 Jul 1934 in Berlin. ZIPPER employed.

OTHER RELATIVES:

ZIPPER EMPLOYMENT:

EOB: 1949 Payroll # 4076 Emergency # Position: Chief 315
Organization: 375 (ex-60) (PP/PW Political Reports Section)

Cover Unit: Industrial Research Unit (1951)

DOCUMENTATION:

FOOTNOTES: TTD # 50114 issued Heidelberg 13 Dec 48, valid to 13 Dec 49 for Austria & Swi

KK (trust): # By F-154 421

KK (alias):

Ristol Permit:

Att Army B Letter: issued 29 Jul 1953 in Munich

ZIPPER ID Card:

ZIPPER E Card:

REFERENCES:

MGLA-2686, 20 Jul 50 (Pers. Sketch) MGLA-12672, 12752, 17 Feb 55 (to, req)
MGLA-2861, 3 Aug 50 MGLA-23686 (att) 27 Oct 50 MGLA-6128 (att) 14 Apr 51
MGLA-2954, 10 Aug 50 MGLA-4327, 30 Oct 50 MGLA-6679, 31 May 51
MGLA-3046, 17 Aug 50 MGLA-3857, 1 Nov 50 MGLA-7582, 30 Jul 51
PULL-944, 17 Aug 50 MGLA-3882, 2 Nov 50 MGLA-12688, 7 Feb 52
PULL-953, 22 Aug 50 MGLA-3907, 3 Nov 50 MGLA-10552 & 10553, 28 Feb 52
MGLA-3112, 23 Aug 50 MGLA-24299, 10 Nov 50 MGLA-1716, 4 Nov 52
FRAN-2210, 30 Aug 50 MGLA-4494, 20 Dec 50 MGLA-12336, 17 Mar 53
MGLA-3274 (att), 7 Sep 50 MGLA-4795, 15 Jan 51 MGLA-3035, 31 Mar 53
MGLA-3363, 15 Sep 50

EGLA-3303, 17 Apr 53
EGLA-7444 & 7445, 2 Feb 54

EGLA-8117, 15 Mar 54
EGQW-1526, 28 Oct 52 (German Army doss.)

EDUCATION:

1902-04, Paedagogium Ostrau
1904-13, Gymnasium Schneidemuehl

MILITARY:

1913: Mar, entered Inf. R. 175.
Nov, Fahnrich (officer candidate)
1914: Aug, Leutnant
1917: Dec, Oberleutnant
1920: May, Inf. R. 110
Oct, Inf. R. 17
1921: Oct, Reit. R. 8
1922: Nov, Inf. R. 17
Sep, Art. R. 5
1926: Feb, Hauptmann (Captain).
ca 1927 -
1944, 20 May, member German General Staff
1928: Feb, Rittmeister (Captain, Cavalry)
Oct, Reichswehrministerium
1930: Mar, Inf. R. 17
1932: Aug, Reichswehrministerium. Gruppenchef of the Press in the
Wehrmachtsabteilung.
Granted unofficial title of Major in Reichswehrministerium.
1933: May, Major
Oct, Kommandeur IV/Inf. R. 4
1936: Jan, Oberstleutnant (Lt. Col.)
Oct, commanded to Kriegsakademie
Kommandeur I/Inf. R. 4
1938: Jun, Oberst (Colonel)
Aug, Military Attache in German Embassy (Gesandtschaften) in
Stockholm, Oslo and Copenhagen.
1939: published book: Kriegskunst Heute und Morgen
22 Jun -
3 Jul, Subject, 1st Generalstabsoffizier of the Kriegsakademie, commanded
to staff command of Kgl. Bulgarian Kriegsakademie in Sofia. Took
part in Galsendebesprechungen (map maneuvers) of Bulgarian
Kriegsakademie.
Beginning of war to
1939: Oct, Chief Gen.St., Stv. (Acting) Gen. Kdo. 8 Armeekorps
Oct -
1940: Sep, Chief Gen.St. 26th Armeekorps
Sep-Oct, Fuehrer Reserve OKH
Oct -
1941: May, Kommandeur der Gen.St. Lehrgaenge (Kr. Av.)
1941: May -
1942: Dec, A.O.K. 12 (Chief)

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MILITARY: (cont'd)

1942: Feb, Generalmajor
1943: Jan, Generalleutnant
Jan-Aug, Chef des Gen.Stabes O.B. Suedost (H.Gr. E)
Aug-
1944: Mar, Obkdo. H.Gr. F (Chef)
Mar-Apr, Fuehrer Reserve OKH (D.R.W.Mr.III)
Jun-Aug, Kommandeur 21 Inf. Division
Aug-Oct, m.d.F.d.I Armeekorps
Nov, General der Infanterie
Nov-Dec, Kommandeur Gen. I Armeekorps
CG First Army (West) (last known appointment)
1945: May, PW (West)
1946: Jul, Dachau

Cleared of war criminal charges at Nuremberg and of Nazi charges by the Spruchkammer in Bavaria.

DECORATIONS:

1940: May, Spange zum Eisernen Kreuz, 2 Class
Spange zum Eisernen Kreuz, 1 Class
1943: Oct, Deutsches Kreuz in Gold
1944: Aug, Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes

Military Assessments (Summary):

Officer with Kriegsschulsausbildung. Comprehensive education and high military knowledge and ability. Striking personality. Intellectually superior, enthusiastic, warm-hearted. Independent mind which draws from rich knowledge. Great power for work. Good knowledge of human nature. Excellent leader and teacher. Very special ability in the written and spoken word.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT:

1951, Head of Division of Military Science in German Historical Institute for the Study of the National Socialist Era, Muenchen (Deutsches Institut fuer Geschichte der Nationalsozialistischen Zeit).
1952, principal employee of Institute for Contemporary History, Muenchen.

INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES:

ZIPPER:

1949, As SVIERSEN, Hermann, BOB as member of ZIPPER staff assigned to Evaluation Section (15). (MOLA-10552)
1950, Very Important Special Connection. Author of ZIPPER pamphlet, Orientierung (world events review). ZIPPER contact to the Press. ZIPPER staff contact to Subject is JOHN von FREYEND, Ernst. Earns DM 540 monthly. Put on Payroll Overhead, 1 Apr 50. Member of Arbeitstab, committee of Genlt. REUSINGER, Adolf (Staff), Genlt. SPEIDEL, Hans (Spec. Conn.) and Subject working on remili-

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ZIPPER: (cont'd)

tarization. Later, member of Expertenausschuss, committee of
Generals working on remilitarization. (MOLA-3882, et.al.)
1952: 1 Oct, Became Chief of psychological warfare planning group (Sec. 60)
1954, Continues as head of Sec. 375 (ax-60), PP & PW Political
Reports and as author of Orientierung. (Has propensity toward writing
Nasty little anti-U.S. digs in Orientierung.) (thru Marvin A. Cabot)

CHARACTER EVALUATIONS:

"One of the smartest, politically and militarily most experienced personalities.
Wide experiences in organizational as well as command work. His brain is seldom
equalled." (Eval. by Gen'l. GEHLEN, MOKA-23686)

"Following Hitler's accession to power and the conclusion by Hitler and Blomberg
of the agreement under which Hitler recognized the Wehrmacht as the sole and ex-
clusive armed body of the German nation, Subject distinguished himself by a series
of articles and lectures rationalizing the relationship between the Wehrmacht and
the NSDAP and hailing Hitler as the saviour of the Wehrmacht and of German mili-
tary tradition....Subject is now (1950) an intelligent and articulate but also
rather bitter and beaten aging man....His mind is first rate, but there is not
much spirit behind it....His bitterness does not express itself in irascibility
or in vindictiveness or defeatism. It is obviously tempered by his intelligence,
which is extraordinary, and by his curiosity and his analytical habits." (MOLA-2686)

[Comment: Subject possesses a brilliant mind; is well-read scholar in field
of political philosophy and has combined a military career with that of an opportu-
nist and prolific writer. It is felt that Subject's experiences have left him em-
bittered, cynical and chronically pessimistic. Not considered by [] as an
individual who will play, in the future, a decisive role of any kind. (ECIA-8117)

RECORD OF RESIDENCE:

1950, Schloss Heinersreuth bei Enschenreuth-Kulmbach, Oberfranken
(estate of Freiherr Baron von LERCHENFELD)
1951, Muenchen 22, Reithoferstr 29
1953-54, Listed in Muenchen City and Telephone Directories at:
Muenchen 19, Prinzenstr 3 / 0.
Tel: 6 31 63

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